

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 11 and 12 as set forth below and add new Claims 19 and 20. The following listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application.

1. (currently amended): A body harness comprising: a pair of shoulder straps; a pair of leg straps and a [spreading] back pad; wherein each shoulder strap passes through the back pad and is connected to one of the leg straps; and wherein at least one of the straps utilizes a piece of curved webbing that has been preformed into a curved shape before being worn.

2. (original): The body harness of claim 1 wherein the back pad is generally X-shaped with the upper arms of the X being longer than the lower arms of the X.

3. (original): The body harness of claim 1 wherein the back pad is generally Y-shaped.

4. (original): The body harness of claim 2 wherein the shoulder straps passes through the back pad in a crossed fashion and passes through a front pad in a crossed fashion.

5. (original): The body harness of claim 2 wherein each end of the leg strap is connected to a leg buckle

6. (original): The body harness of claim 2 wherein the back pad has a plurality of openings therein with at least one opening in each arm of the X.

7. (original): The body harness of claim 6 wherein the openings in the upper arms of the back pad are slightly offset upwardly and outwardly from the centerlines of the back pad relative to the openings in the bottom arms.

8. (original): The body harness of claim 7 wherein the plurality of openings are slots for the shoulder straps with two slots in each arm of the X.

9. (original): The body harness of claim 1 wherein the shoulder straps comprise curved webbing.

10. (original): The body harness of claim 1 wherein the leg straps comprise curved webbing.

11. (currently amended): The body harness of claim 1 [wherein the] further comprising a subpelvic strap [comprises] of curved webbing.

12. (currently amended): A body harness comprising: a pair of shoulder straps made from curved webbing that has been preformed into a curved shape before being worn; a pair of leg straps; and a back pad; wherein each shoulder strap passes through the back pad, and is connected to one of the leg straps.

13. (original): The body harness of claim 12 wherein the curved webbing comprises one of the following materials: polyester, nylon and Kevlar.

14. (original): The body harness of claim 12 wherein the curved webbing has a width of 1.75-2.0 inches.

15. (original): The body harness of claim 12 wherein the curved webbing has a radius of curvature of two inches.

16. (original): The body harness of claim 15 wherein the radius of curvature occurs at an angle of 24°.

17. (original): The body harness of claim 12 wherein the curved webbing is formed from straight webbing using a heatsetting process.

18. (original): The body harness of claim 17 wherein the heatsetting process uses dry heat.

19. (new): A body harness comprising: a pair of shoulder straps; a pair of leg straps and a back pad; wherein each shoulder strap passes through the back pad and is connected to one of the leg straps; and wherein the back pad is generally X-shaped with the upper arms of the X being longer than the lower arms of the X, there being a plurality of openings in the back pad with at least one opening in each arm of the X, and the openings in the upper arms of the back pad are slightly offset upwardly and outwardly from the centerlines of the back pad relative to the openings in the bottom arms.

20. (new): The body harness of claim 19 wherein the plurality of openings are slots for the shoulder straps with two slots in each arm of the X.